

The Weather Whisper

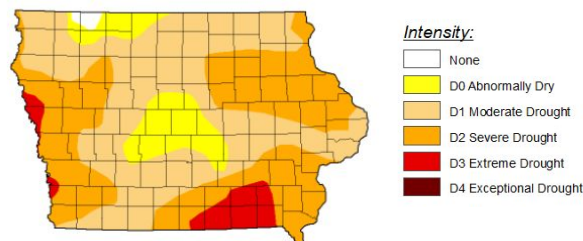
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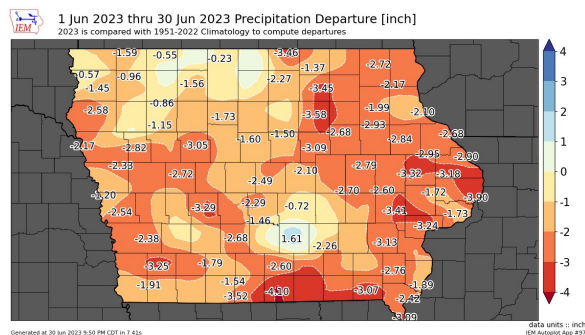
Drought Grows Across Iowa

Brooke Hagenhoff, Meteorologist

Drought continues to expand across Iowa this summer as prolonged dry conditions stretch on. While a few small areas in northern Iowa saw near to slightly above average precipitation this month, the vast majority of Iowa is seeing precipitation deficits of 1-3" or more for the month of June alone. Looking at the first six months of 2023 paints a similar story. Much of the area is several inches below average on precipitation. As such, the drought monitor, which is updated weekly, has showed drought expanding across the state. As of June 29th, 89% of the state is in D1 (moderate drought) or worse. As we look towards the rest of the summer, the [Climate Prediction Center](#) shows continued chances for above average temperatures and a weak signal for above average precipitation. Unfortunately, without a stronger indication it is likely that this would only have a very small impact on the longer term precipitation deficits.



Drought Monitor for Iowa released June 29th, 2023.



Precipitation deficit across Iowa for the month of June 2023.

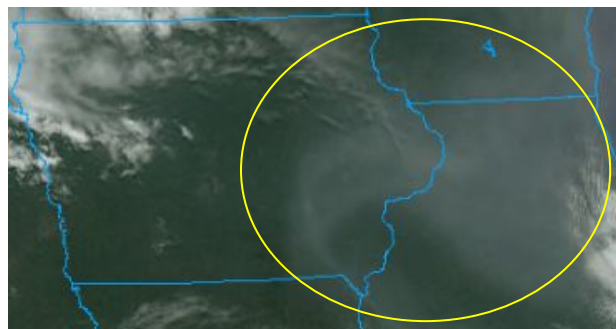
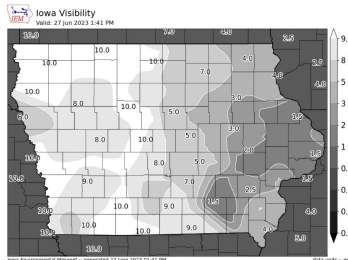
Wildfire Smoke Impacts to Iowa

Kristy Carter, Meteorologist

You may have heard smoke or haze talked about in weather forecasts of recent across the state of Iowa as wind patterns brought wildfire smoke from fires burning in Canada. Although smoke adding some haze to the skies over Iowa is not exactly uncommon from western or Canadian wildfires, having noticeable impacts at the surface like we did in late June is certainly a bit more unusual. In this case, smoke was mixed down to the surface causing notable visibility reductions with this smoke being quite apparent in both webcams and satellite imagery, as seen on the right. The smoke brought elevated levels of fine particulates which led the [Iowa DNR](#) to issue an Air Quality Advisory statewide.



Early afternoon 6/27/23 IA DOT Webcam Imagery (top), Iowa Environmental Mesonet visibility observations (middle), and College of Dupage Visible Satellite imagery (bottom, smoke circled in yellow) all showing smoke conditions across portions of the state.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Brooke Hagenhoff

Event and Partner Support, Post-Storm Evaluation, Severe Storms

Background

Brooke grew up in Missouri and graduated from the University of Oklahoma, then graduated from the University of North Dakota with a master's degree. In September 2017 she started at NWS Des Moines and has been here ever since. Within her first year, Iowa experienced the significant Marshalltown/Pella tornadoes and the devastating Des Moines metro area flash flooding. These events helped further cement deep compassion for those impacted by such events and a passion for working with partners to prepare for dangerous weather.

Outside of the office, Brooke can often be found with her nose in a book and her cat, Millie, on her lap. When the weather cooperates she's usually out in her garden or on a paddleboard at the lake. She loves to travel and tries to visit somewhere new and unique at least once each year.



Meteorologist



6 Years of service

On the Cover:

Colorful sunrise on the morning of June 30th, due to clouds and smokey skies. Picture taken by meteorologist Brooke Hagenhoff while working the night shift.



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